

Working to help local communities access federal funding for their important work, Rep. Debbie Halvorson (IL-11) recently hosted seminars throughout the 11th Congressional District of Illinois to help local officials and non-profit organizations learn how to cut through bureaucratic red tape and secure federal funding and investment for their communities.

"Helping our communities get the investments they need to provide vital services, upgrade local infrastructure, and get our economy back on track is very important, and the best way to do this is to help our local communities cut through the Washington red-tape," said Halvorson.

"Working on the local and state levels, I've seen the frustration organizations can experience in trying to work through the bureaucracy, and as a member of Congress, it's my job to help clear the roadblocks in Washington and make the federal government accessible. It's important to help local governments and organizations learn about available funding through Federal agencies and become more effective in securing those funds."

Held in each region of the district, these seminars helped representatives from local community governments and organizations understand in detail the federal funding process, for programs such as the Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighters Grants. Meetings were hosted by the Congresswoman in Mokena, Kankakee, Morris, La Salle, and Normal throughout early January, with staff members from Halvorson's office present to also assist and help participants.

Halvorson also presented her criteria for federal appropriations requests, basing decisions on submission on the areas of regional significance, transformative value for the local economy, cost-effectiveness, job creation potential, and eligibility.

"We appreciate Rep. Halvorson's work to keep us informed about supplemental federal funding opportunities for the district-these efforts are quite valued and necessary during these economic times," said Bureau County Sheriff John Thompson.

Available funding through Federal agencies includes investments in projects for first responders, housing, social services, green jobs, and educational improvements. Since Halvorson became a member of Congress, she has worked to secure funding for projects such as those to strengthen law enforcement efforts, improve local roads, and provide for mentoring activities for at-risk children.